# CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1    Claim 1 (currently amended): A network management system for discovering information

2    about a network, comprising:

3        a plurality of _processing_ nodes;

4        plural discovery agents on said nodes adapted to discover information concerning said

5    network;

6        each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery capability;

7        each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery assignment; and

8        collectively, said agent discovery assignments being a subset of said agent discovery

9    capabilities.


1    Claim 2 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein, collectively, said agent

2    discovery capabilities are overlapping and said agent discovery assignments are substantially

3    non-overlapping.


1    Claim 3 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2    assignments are based on said discovery capabilities.


1    Claim 4 (previously presented): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent

2    discovery assignments reflect one or more of data collection service registrations with said

3    plural discovery agents, agent cost to obtain network information, load balancing among said

4    plural discovery agents, and assignment churn.

1    Claim 5 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2    assignments comprise one or both of inband and outband discovery assignments.


1    Claims 6-16 (canceled).


1    Claim 17 (currently amended): A network discovery agent for use in a data storage network,

2    comprising:

3          a processing node;

4          discovery capability logic associated with said processing node adapted to determine

5    and provide agent discovery capability information to a requestor, said agent discovery

6    capability information being a subset of all discovery information obtainable by said agent;

7    and

8          discovery query logic associated with said processing node adapted to implement

9    discovery queries based on agent discovery assignment information determined from said

10   capability information.


1    Claims 18-20 (canceled).